



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/676,408

10/01/2003

Gilbert Rene Gonzales

PEDI-13

8069

26875 7590 01/08/2007

WOOD, HERRON & EVANS, LLP

2700 CAREW TOWER

441 VINE STREET

CINCINNATI, OH 45202

EXAMINER

SAMALA, JAGADISHWAR RAO

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1618

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
--	-----------	---------------

31 DAYS

01/08/2007

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/676,408

Applicant(s)

GONZALES ET AL.

Examiner

Jagadishwar R. Samala

Art Unit

1618

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-51 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-51 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____.  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### **Status of Application**

Receipt of response to Office Action and Applicant's Arguments/Remarks filed on 12/04/2006 is acknowledged. In view of accurate examination restriction is required.

### ***Election/Restrictions***

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
  - I. Claims 1-26 and 51 are, drawn to a pharmaceutical composition comprising: a medicament in a pharmaceutically acceptable effervescent formulation, comprising: a gas-dispersing component including at least one first gas contained within an aqueous dissolvable solid matrix, and a gas-generating effervescent component including at least two components reactive to generate a second gas upon aqueous contact, classified in class 424, subclass 464, 466,469,480,486 and 488.
  - II. Claims 27-36 and 47-50 are, drawn to a method of administering and dispersing a effervescent medicament,orally administering the composition in an aqueous vehicle classified in class 424, subclass 464,466,469,480,486,488.
  - III. Claims 37-40 are, drawn to a method of enhancing patient compliance with a pharmaceutical therapy, comprising: providing to a patient an ingestible medicament formulated with a first and second effervescent

component and allowing the patient to select the aqueous vehicle for dispersion of the medicament in the aqueous vehicle, classified in class 424, subclass 464,466,469,480,486,488.

- IV. Claims 41-46 are, drawn to a method of formulating an effervescent pharmaceutical composition comprising: formulating a biconvex multi-layered ingestible solid dosage formulation comprising (a) a medicament, (b) a dispersing gas, and (c) a substantially anhydrous effervescent penetration enhancing gas precursor, wherein at least one of (b) or (c) comprises an outer layer for initial aqueous contact, classified in class 424, subclass 464,466,469,480, 488 and 44.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

2. Inventions I and II-IV are related as product and process of claims. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product. See MPEP § 806.05(h). In the instant case different inventions group I are drawn to pharmaceutical compositions and invention group II-IV are drawn to method of administering and dispersing a medicament pharmaceutical composition. Instant case invention of group I can be administered via different routes (e.g. US 6,261,601 B1 and US 4,687,662).
3. Inventions II-IV are patentably distinct. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different

Art Unit: 1618

designs, modes of operation, and effects (MPEP § 802.01 and § 806.06). In the instant case, the different inventions II-IV have designs, modes of operation and effects. While invention II is drawn to a method of administering and dispersing a effervescent medicament, orally, invention III is drawn to method of enhancing patient compliance with a pharmaceutical therapy, while invention IV is drawn to a method of formulating an effervescent pharmaceutical composition. As such, a reference anticipating one group of inventions would not necessarily render the other inventions obvious.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and there would be a serious burden on the examiner if restriction is not required because the inventions require a different field of search (see MPEP § 808.02), restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

The election of an invention may be made with or without traverse. To reserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which depend from or otherwise require all the limitations of an allowable generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a species or invention to be examined even though the

Art Unit: 1618

requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention.

The election of an invention or species may be made with or without traverse. To reserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse.

### **Rejoining Practice**

The examiner has required restriction between product and process of claims. Where applicant elects claims directed to the product, and a product claim is subsequently found allowable, withdrawn process claims that depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the allowable product claim will be rejoined in accordance with the allowable product claim will be rejoined in accordance with the provisions of MPEP § 821.04. **Process claims that depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the patentable product** will be entered as a matter of right if the amendment is presented prior to final rejection or allowance, whichever is earlier. Amendments submitted after final rejection are governed by 37 CFR 1.116; amendments submitted after allowance are governed by 37 CFR 1.312.

In the event of rejoinder, the requirement for restriction between the product claims and the rejoined process claims will be withdrawn, and the rejoined process claims will be fully examined for patentability in accordance with 37 CFR 1.104. Thus, to be allowable, the rejoined claims must meet all criteria for patentability including the

Art Unit: 1618

requirements of 35 U.S.C. 101, 102, 103, and 112. Until an elected product claims is found allowable, an otherwise proper restriction requirement between product claims and process claims may be maintained. Withdrawn process claims that are not commensurate in scope with an allowed product claim will not be rejoined. See "Guidance of Treatment of Product and Process Claims in light of *In re Ochiai*, *In re Brouwer* and 35 U.S.C. § 103(b), " 1184 O.G. 86 (March 26, 1996). Additionally, in order to retain the right to rejoinder in accordance with the above policy, Applicant is advised that the process claims should be amended during prosecution either to maintain dependency on the product claims or to otherwise include the limitations of the product claims. **Failure to do so may result in a loss of the right to rejoinder.**

Further, note that the prohibition against double patenting rejections of 35 U.S.C. 121 does not apply where the restriction requirement is withdrawn by the examiner before the patent issues. See MPEP § 804.01.

***Conclusion***

1. Late Restriction is necessary. It is noted that the restriction requirement is necessitated by amendment filed Sep.8, 2004. 37 CFR 1.142(a), second sentence states: "if the distinctness and independence of the invention is clear, such requirement will be made before any action upon the merits however, it may be made at any time before final action in the case at the discretion of the examination." Thus, the instant restriction requirement is considered to be proper in timely manner.
2. No claims are allowed at this time.
3. All pending claims are subject to restriction/election requirement.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jagadishwar R. Samala whose telephone number is (571)272-9927. The examiner can normally be reached on 8.30 A.M to 5.00 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Hartley can be reached on (571)272-0616. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.



Art Unit: 1618

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Jagadishwar R Samala  
Examiner  
Art Unit 1618

  
**VICKIE KIM**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**

sjr